

AMPHIBIA: SALIENTIA: LEPTODACTYLIDAE *ELEUTHERODACTYLUS ARMSTRONGI*

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

SCHWARTZ, ALBERT. 1978. *Eleutherodactylus armstrongi*.

Eleutherodactylus armstrongi Noble and Hassler

Eleutherodactylus armstrongi Noble and Hassler, 1933:2. Type-locality, "El propio Esfuerzo," coffee finca of Luis E. Del Monte, near Barahona [Barahona Province], D. R. [=Dominican Republic] at an altitude of 1800 feet." Holotype, Amer. Mus. Natur. Hist. 44554, adult female, collected 3 August 1932 by W. G. Hassler (not examined by author).

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

- DEFINITION. A species of the *auriculatus* group of Antillean *Eleutherodactylus* characterized by the combination of moderate size (males to 31 mm, females to 43 mm snout-vent length), dorsal color extremely variable from brown and tan to clear yellow, orange, orange-red, or yellow-green, the color clearest and brightest on the hindlimbs (especially the thighs), dorsal pattern a pair of buffy to tan dorsolateral stripes extending from the eyes to near the groin, these lines fainter posteriorly and outlined by dark brown to black; dorsum between the dorsolateral stripes heavily marbled with dark brown, snout less heavily marbled with brown than dorsum and a narrow pale interocular bar at times present, anterior flanks mottled or marbled with brown lateral to dorsolateral stripes; hindlimbs never barred or crossbanded but often with faint brownish scattered dots on crura; digital discs large; venter yellow to yellowish or grayish, throat with scattered moderately sized gray to dark brown or blackish dots, at times extending onto chest; postfemoral, inguinal, and supra-axillary glandular areas present; vomerine tooth series elongate beyond the internal choanae (in contrast to other members of the *auriculatus* group which have the vomerine series small and patch-like); hind limbs long (tibia/snout-vent length \times 100, 44.3–52.5 in males, 44.3–51.0 in females).

- DESCRIPTIONS. The original description (Noble and Hassler, 1933:2–4) is complete and there are only slight additions in Cochran (1941:82). Shreve and Williams (1963:328–29) and Schwartz (1969:102–104) added details or commented on variation.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Cochran (1941) has drawings of dorsal, ventral, and lateral head patterns, as well as ventral views of a hand and a foot and interior view of buccal cavity.

- DISTRIBUTION. Schwartz and Thomas (1975:15) gave the distribution as: Hispaniola; in Haiti, from the Montagne Noire

(Furcy; Obléon; Peneau) and the Massif de la Selle (3.8–5.4 mi SW Seguin); in the República Dominicana, known from the Sierra de Baoruco in the Polos-Las Auyamas region, but also descending to within 1.9 mi W Paraíso near the coast; the species has more recently been taken on the southeastern slopes of the Sierra de Baoruco north of Enriquillo. Altitudinal distribution from 500 ft (west of Paraíso) to 5,600 ft (Furcy).

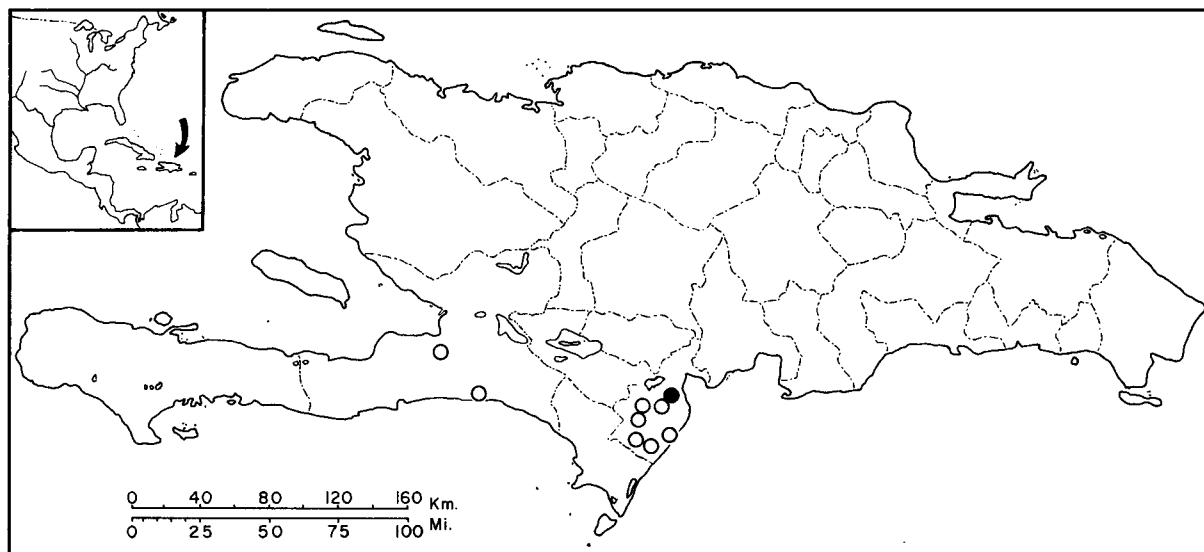
- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. Other than papers previously cited, Schwartz (1973) commented in detail upon the distribution of *E. armstrongi*. Noble and Hassler (1933:4) and Schwartz and Thomas (1975:16) and Schwartz (1973) all have notes on the ecological preferences and habitat of the species.

- REMARKS. *E. armstrongi* is broadly distributed in the Massif de la Selle (and its associated northern front ranges) and the Sierra de Baoruco, but its distribution is apparently discontinuous in many areas. In some regions (Furcy) it is abundant in pine-woods at high elevations, yet elsewhere it is absent from this habitat (north of Cabo Rojo). In other regions it occurs in *cafetales* and upland broadleaf forest (Las Auyamas; Seguin) but there are areas which have one or both of these major ecological habitats where the species does not occur (along the Dominico-Haitian border between Los Arroyos and El Aguacate). Schwartz (1973) has discussed some of these vagaries in detail. *E. armstrongi* is primarily an upland species but descends to near sea level where the upland broadleaf forests come near the coast (west of Paraíso). The call is a single penetrating and repetitive metallic note; males call from shrubs to high in forest canopy (the latter the usual situation) in broadleaf forest, but often call from the trunks of *Pinus* in pine forest. During the day *E. armstrongi* may be encountered in living bromeliads, but young and immature individuals are regularly found under rocks, logs, and other ground debris in mesic forested situations.

Shreve and Williams (1963:328) placed *E. armstrongi* in the *ricordi* group since the elongate tooth row in this species is more like the condition in the *ricordi* group than the patchlike series in the *auriculatus* group. They also noted that in pattern *E. armstrongi* is very like that of *E. (bakeri) heminota*, an *auriculatus* group member. Everything considered, they felt that *E. armstrongi* showed relationship between the *ricordi* and *auriculatus* groups. Schwartz (1969:102) noted the differences between *E. armstrongi* and other *auriculatus* group members (long vomerine series, smooth belly) but nevertheless considered it an aberrant member of the *auriculatus* group; vocally, *E. armstrongi* is allied to that complex rather than the weak-voiced *ricordi* group.

Specimens of *E. armstrongi* and data for the species were collected under the auspices of National Science Foundation grants G-7977 and B-023603.



MAP. Distribution of *Eleutherodactylus armstrongi* on Hispaniola. Solid circle marks the type-locality; open circles indicate other localities.

- ETYMOLOGY. *E. armstrongi* is named for Lorenzo D. Armstrong, "whose generosity made the 1932 expedition [to the República Dominicana] possible" (Noble and Hassler, 1933:5).

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